

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:RDJOHNSON:BJR
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY
EUR/CE:WMWOESSNER
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TO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189499

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PGOV, WB, US

SUBJECT:NATIONAL AIRLINES SERVICE TO BERLIN

REF: (A) 77 STATE 296474; (B) 77 USBERLIN 3096

1. A REPRESENTATIVE OF NATIONAL AIRLINES INFORMED THE
DEPARTMENT JULY 25 THAT THE AIRLINE IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDER-
ING THE POSSIBILITY OF REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR AN INTER-
NATIONAL SERVICE TO BERLIN. THE PROPOSED NATIONAL SERVICE
WOULD BE FROM MIAMI THROUGH AMSTERDAM TO BERLIN WITH THE
POSSIBILITY OF NEW YORK-AMSTERDAM-BERLIN IF NATIONAL
RECEIVES AUTHORITY FOR DIRECT NEW YORK-AMSTERDAM FLIGHTS.
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NATIONAL ENVISAGES AT LEAST DAILY FLIGHTS USING TDE-BODY
DC-10'S.

2. WE HAVE TOLD NATIONAL THAT WE WOULD LOOK AT THEIR
PROPOSAL SERIOUSLY WHEN THEY HAD MADE THEIR OWN DECISION.
IN THE MEANTIME WE SAID WE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE MISSION
AND THE EMBASSY AND THEN GIVE THE AIRLINE OUR PRELIMINARY

VIEWS ON THEIR PROPOSAL. FYI: NATIONAL IS WELL AWARE OF THE SPECIAL COMPLICATIONS INVOLVED IN BERLIN AIR SERVICES AND THE DIFFICULTIES AND RESISTANCE WHICH THEY WILL ENCOUNTER IF THEY PROCEED. END FYI.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE COMMENTS OF THE EMBASSY AND THE MISSION ON FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF NATIONAL UNDERTAKING THIS SERVICE. SINCE NATIONAL HAS NOT YET MADE A FINAL DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS PROJECT AND HAS REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT TREAT THE INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALLY, THE POSSIBILITY OF NATIONAL FLIGHTS TO BERLIN SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH OFFICIALS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS OR AIRLINES AT THIS STAGE.

4. OUR GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD ADDITIONAL CARRIERS OPERATING IN BERLIN REMAINS AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REF A. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT NATIONAL'S CHANCES FOR SUCCESS, BUT WE WILL WISH TO GIVE THEIR PROPOSAL CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BEFORE ARRIVING AT A DEFINITE POSITION. CHRISTOPHER

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